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Ufology in a Holding Pattern?

It took the acerbic wit of UFO bookseller Robert Girard (Arcturus Books) to make the point clear to everyone: *RIP Ufology, 1947-1999*. Or so read the introduction to his catalogue this month. Though this may be disquieting to many, Mr. Girard is more than likely correct in his assessment. If the science, field of study, endeavor, pastime or whatever one wishes to term "ufology" has not, in fact, bitten the dust, it has mutated into something that its founding fathers (or earliest exponents, if you will) would be hard pressed to recognize.

Perhaps some would rather think of ufology as being in some sort of "holding pattern" in the wake of the Roaring Nineties (1990s, that is) of no-holds-barred speculation, outrageous claims, televised extravaganzas and earth-shattering disclosures. Maybe the entire field is waiting for a new wave of sightings to stir the non-specialized public's interest, or for a new generation of researchers (perhaps less interested in making personal appearances at conventions) to take the stage. Or perhaps we really are at the end of the line, picking up the crumbs from the great banquet that was the 1990s.

Scott Corrales

Editor

INEXPLICATA--The Journal of Hispanic Ufology

Ice in your drink on a summer day can be refreshing--ice crashing through the roof of an industrial warehouse in the dead of winter is quite another thing. Last winter, Europe was pelted by blocks of ice of unknown origin...when will the Americas get their turn?

Europe's Inexplicable Icefalls

by Scott Corrales

The 1930's were one of the 20th centuries most turbulent decades--kicking off with a world in the midst of economic depression, the sharp divide between democracy, fascism and communism, and ending in all-out warfare. While the pages of history are devoted to the famous--and infamous--names of that time, there are other names which will probably pass from memory at some point in the coming century. One of them is that of Hans Hoerbiger, the Austrian proponent of the *Wel* theory--"The Eternal Ice", a belief fostered as official by Nazi Germany.

Much has been written about Hoerbiger elsewhere, but in a nutshell, his theory postulated that our planet had endured the acquisition and loss of a number of moons, and that each of these periods had ended in enormous ice showers as the outer shells of these moons plunged into the Earth's atmosphere. The ice showers would be followed by larger meteors of ore and iron. Hoerbiger's disciples, such as Hans Bellamy, employed this fanciful theory as a "vindication of the cosmogonic myths in the Book of Genesis" (which is, indeed, the subtitle of Bellamy's own text on the subject).

We now know that the surface of the Moon--Hoerbiger's "planet Luna"--is not made of ice, although the exciting news about this substance's discovery in deep polar craters recently made the news. The urge to play devil's advocate becomes irresistible, however, when strange chunks of ice begin plummeting into our atmosphere and leaving scientists bewildered. Could Hoerbiger have been onto something, after all?

Ice in Spain

In the month of January 2000, when chunks of ice--some of them weighing more than just a few pounds--began peppering the southern and western regions of Spain, known for their mild weather and fine beaches, people began to wonder if something wasn't seriously amiss. Certainly, France had experienced a terrible winter storm the previous month, which caused untold damage in Paris and Versailles, and north-central Spain had undergone snow related hardships. But this was something utterly new.

The first few icefalls were overlooked as mere "flukes" or curiosities: the ice blocks which fell on Soria on January 8th and in Seville on the 10th barely made it into the news (despite the latter projectile weighing in at a healthy 1.8 kilograms). But on January 13, 2000, headlines across Spain trumpeted the discovery of an enigmatic chunk of ice measuring 13 centimeters across and weighing over a pound. The celestial missile's trajectory led it to punch a hole in the zinc roof of

an industrial warehouse belonging to the Viferma Corporation in that town of L'Alcudia (Valencia). The mega-hailstone's destructiveness would have been completely overlooked during a hailstorm, particularly during the winter months, but the intruder had appeared out of the clear blue Mediterranean sky. Workers in the industrial warehouse heard an explosion at around 11:00 am, followed by a shower of zinc fragments from the roof above. A closer inspection revealed that the icy projectile had encrusted itself between the shattered zinc roof and an I-beam, from where it was carefully removed and placed in a refrigerator. Some employees expressed the belief that the unwelcome guest could have been much larger, given the fragments of ice visible on the floor below and scattered on the intact part of the roof. A spokesman for the local weather bureau (Centro Meteorologico de Valencia) ordered that the fragment be placed in a clean container and preserved until one of their representatives could collect it for investigation. The explanation issued at the moment was that the "object was of possible cometary origin".

Within twenty-four hours, reports were being received from the village of La Unión in Murcia, where another large ice rock had fallen behind a local bar. The National Police dutifully picked up the object and forwarded it for study.

In a matter of days, the Spanish icefalls had gone from curiosity to news item and from there to the outskirts of panic: on January 16, 2000, the ABC newspaper reported that the eight such chunk of cosmic ice had fallen in downtown Cádiz, striking the ground on La Palma street at 3:30 in the afternoon--a time and place where one or more people could have been seriously injured or killed.

The following day, another large chunk of ice would strike the Valencia region, this time in the town of Albalat de la Ribera. The object in this incident was described as having "the size of a basketball" and to have fallen on a local road joining the communities of Sueca and Algemesa. In this event, two teenagers driving along the road collected the object and preserved it until experts could come for it. The phenomenon was by no means over. On January 17th, the media reported that two more "frigoliths"--as they were now being called--had fallen on Huelva and Albacete. Scientists, who had drawn battle lines regarding their provenance of the phenomenon, were more divided than ever and helpless. The citizens of the towns of Tocina (Sevilla), L'Alcudia (Valencia), La Union (Murcia), Meliana, Enguera (Valencia) and Xilxes (Castellon) anxiously awaited the results for the analyses conducted on the objects fallen on their respective communities.

On February 1, 2000, the owner of a dwelling located at #87 Bruc Street in Barcelona was startled to find a 1250 kilogram chunk of ice on her terrace, according to sources of the Urban Police which assumed custody of the object. The chunk of ice remained at police headquarters in Barcelona until it was forwarded to Madrid at noon for further study.

Grappling with the complex matter of the ice showers fell to the *Consejo Superior de Investigaciones* (CSIC), a government agency, and one of its first assignments was to keep the situation under control and within logical guidelines. Geologist Jesús Martínez Frias, who was in charge of collecting most of these ice fragments from the affected areas, stated that he was

"the most startled one when it [came] to this type of phenomena. It's too risky to engage in a priori evaluations, but everything points to a cometary origin for these ice fragments." Martínez immediately dismissed one of the prevalent theories, which pointed to the possible origin of the ice as residue from high-flying aircraft. "If this hypothesis is confirmed," he observed, "it would be a worldwide scientific scoop, because there is no evidence that other cometary remains have fallen on our planet. In such an event, we would have to notify our findings to NASA and to ESA (European Space Agency)."

Not all members of Spain's scientific establishment were so sanguine about a possible extraplanetary origin to the ice. In fact, most adhered to the highly skeptical position best exemplified by that of Javier Armentia, director of the Pamplona Planetarium and a well-known UFO skeptic. "I'm convinced that part of these phenomena are little more than pranks. In other words, that following the falls of one or two ice fragments, there was a wave effect, similar to what happens with UFOs."

Francisco Anguita, dean of Petrology and Geochemistry at Madrid's Universidad Complutense, also came out in favor of a non-extraplanetary origin for the frigidoliths.

Italian Ices

The backdrop for the events would soon change from one Mediterranean view to another. On January 28, another block of ice weighing 2 kilograms in a Salesian monastery in the town of L'Aquila, an event preceded by similar icefalls in the Campania region

According to the Italian NTX news agency, the magistrate's office in the city of Ancona initiated an investigation after a 24 year old worker was injured after being hit by a block weighing approximately 1 kilogram. Physicist Giancarlo Tebaldi of Milan's Hygiene and Prevention Institute expressed their belief that ice is was a result of the same storms that ravaged France in December during one of the worst natural disasters in that country's history. The Veneto Region Environmental Agency's studies proved the blocks to be made of a "material similar to distilled water, in other words, lacking any salts whatsoever, and with traces of ammonia and nitrates," and discarded the possibility that the chunks of ice could be radioactive.

Ufologist Eufemio Del Buono, however, stated that the ice "is a warning from extraterrestrial intelligences". A sorcerer named Alex from the city of Genova, told radio stations that these were really fireballs sent to destroy the world, but they turned into ice balls upon making contact with the Earth's atmosphere.

On the other side of the world from Europe, less attention was commanded by a shower of large blocks of ice which completely destroyed croplands to the north of Bogotá, Colombia, on March 17th, 2000. The ice storm, complete with hurricane-strength winds, laid waste the agricultural community of Oiba (some 120 miles from Bogota), shearing the roofs of the peasantry's fragile homes and killing all types of animals. Primitivo Báez, a spokesman for the mayor's office, told

reporters for Associated Press that "the ground looked as if it had been scorched by a huge fire." The unusual weather event, which lasted three hours, left in its wake large blocks of ice littered over a 200 hectare-wide area. According to Báez, the damage to cash crops such as coffee, sugarcane and yucca was such that farmers were forced to uproot any surviving plants and re-plant them.

"The event was so sudden," stated Báez in the March 19 AP newswire, "that birds were unable to fly away from the hurricane-strength winds and the ice. They died on the ground, as did the chickens. Only some animals which managed to find shelter beneath trees escaped injury."

Colombia had experienced unusually powerful hailstorms before, mostly attributed to the "La Niña" meteorological phenomenon, but as in Europe, there was no explanation for the sudden icy destruction.

Scientists on Ice

While scientists stared at each other like gunslingers at sundown, the frigoliths continued to fall, this time far from the Mediterranean "theater": residents of the Dutch cities of Groningen, Hoogeveen, Veendam and Zoutkamp were startled to find huge chunks of ice--of the same size and characteristics of the Iberian and Italian ones--sitting in their back yards. A scientist from the University of Groningen, Dr. Theo Jurriens, investigated these occurrences and reached a preliminary verdict of "drinking water from an unknown source."

Spain's *Instituto del Frío* (Cold Research Institute) and the National Institute of Meteorology were entrusted the task of determining the frigoliths' provenance and nature. This apparently straightforward assignment would soon deteriorate into a battle of opposing factions that would end with the firing of the director in charge of one of these agencies.

The bureaucratic handling of the specimens was part of the problem: time slowly passed between delivery of the objects by the National Police to the CSIC, and thence to the interdisciplinary working group led by meteorologist Luis Muñosiguren. Efforts at shoehorning the phenomenon into a strictly meteorological framework began from the start, even when Muñosiguren stated that there was no evidence pointing to a natural meteorological phenomenon at work in the creation of the frigoliths. "We don't know of any scientific mechanism which provides a basis for such a phenomenon." The meteorologist pointed to the fact that the Earth's stratosphere, where the frigoliths almost surely formed, contains very little water vapor--the crucial element in their formation. "Normal detection equipment does not detect water vapor concentrations in the atmosphere, where the normal concentrations are so low as to be nonexistent." Chemical analyses ultimately proved that the Spanish ice bombs were made of ordinary H₂O with trace minerals, ammonia (NH₄) and low levels of silica (SiO₂).

However, some things were made clear during the January 21st "summit". The experts agreed that the objects had no connection whatsoever to high flying aircraft or liquid discharges from airliners; they discarded the possibility of their being aeroliths or meteorites, and agreed that whatever they were, they were unrelated to any conventional atmospheric processes. Scientists also confessed not knowing what manner of

air currents would allow vast quantities of ice to remain aloft, calling attention to the 100 pound ice missile that fell in Brazil in 1998, or the three-foot wide block of ice that bombarded China in 1995.

In an op-ed piece written for Spain's Karma-7 magazine, Carlos González Cutre, a meteorologist with the Spanish Air Force, discussed the various forces at work in the troposphere and stratosphere, emerging at the end with a highly disturbing conjecture: what if, suggests González, we are dealing with a gigantic mass of ice floating in the darkness of space, shedding chunks of material every time Earth's gravitational pull reaches out to it with invisible fingers?

A notion worthy of Charles Fort himself.

Those Who Forget the Past...

The media and academe alike treated the Western Mediterranean icefalls with the level of concern usually reserved for completely new--and even a tad ominous--phenomena. A world in recovery from Pre-Millennial tension perhaps deserved better, but the fact remained that such icefalls were quite a common occurrence, and not just in the casebooks of Charles Fort.

According to Fortean researcher Thanassis Vembos, a similar phenomenon had been visited upon Greece in 1988, when an object crashed to earth in an empty field near the town of Chalkoutsi, 30 miles north of Athens. One local resident claimed having witnessed the descent to earth of a large dark mass "the size of a human body" shortly before noon on January 4th. The unknown object's impact threw up large amounts of mud into the air as a small crater was formed. Authorities reporting to the location would later discover a lump of ice almost a foot in diameter, which appeared to be a perfectly normal in all respects. Subsequent chemical analyses confirmed its normalcy, adding that the object was made of frozen chlorinated water. Vembos, whose report appeared in Strange (#6--1990), tied the incident in with other unusual phenomena being experienced in the Eastern Mediterranean at the time: mysterious aerial booms ("skyquakes"), earthquakes and a UFO flap. Nor was this the first time that such events had occurred in Greece: In September 1980, a 10 pound block of ice fell on the village of Chiona in the Peloponnese, where a similar block of ice had fallen in 1976. Cold comfort, indeed.

Contributing Editor Manuel Carballal shares his thoughts on the extraterrestrial myth and how it has been exploited in our society.

UFOs, Flying Saucers and Aliens

by Manuel Carballal

The alien invasion is upon us regardless of the passionate and impassioned debate regarding the existence--or non-existence--of life beyond our own world. Even beyond the confrontations between ufologists, naysayers and believers, and completely beyond what astronomy, exobiology and even ufology may have to say about the matter...we have already been invaded by aliens.

The ranks of contactee cults have swelled in an inverse proportion to the disenchanting faithful who leave Catholic or Protestant churches. The Star Trek, Star Wars or Starman sagas are hits at the box-office, with audience shares rivalled only by Mulder and Scully on the small screen. Records by UFO or the Foo Fighters are on top of the record sales lists, while ET replaces Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse in the minds of our children. The number of UFO publications increases year after year while new editions of hit books on aliens and extraterrestrials appear on the stands.

It's inevitable. If our parents' generation was raised on the Ripaldan Catechism, songs by Joselito, and the movie Marcelino Pan y Vino, our children are being raised amid the bombardment of the extraterrestrial myth. It isn't strange, therefore, that more and more sociologists should aim their doctoral dissertations toward the increasing presence of extraterrestrialism in Western culture.

This sociological perspective of the extraterrestrial myth, firmly implanted in our culture, has nothing to do with the search for extraterrestrial life undertaken by radio telescopes all over the world. Nor does it have anything to do with the flying wings, circular-winged vehicles, hybrid dirigibles and many other "flying saucers" and disk-shaped craft which have been born since the dawn of the twentieth century, on the drafting tables of German, American, Japanese and other aeronautical engineers.

Nor is there any relationship between the extraterrestrial myth as a cultural phenomenon and the vast array of aerial phenomena of a meteorological, astronomical or physical type, seen in the skies by so many thousands of people unable to identify their nature: lenticular clouds, atmospheric electricity, temperature inversions, planetary alignments, meteorites, etc.

Amid this universe of false synonyms, socio-cultural myths, unconventional aeronautics, and unknown aerial phenomena, there's this odd thing called "ufology".

Bastard children of Science, heretics of religion and cultural malcontents, ufologists have tried to turn the study of unexplained aerial phenomena into a legitimate discipline. However, there are too many hidden interests seeking to maintain the veil of obscurantism which surrounds the UFO phenomenon.

Renowned thinker and linguist Noam Chomsky inadvertently defined the problem that bedevils ufology in his book Necessary Illusions when it came to enunciating such concepts as "the contention of the debate". This clever power strategy consists in limiting the focus upon a given phenomena, thus containing the debate's arguments and by logical extension, the "sensitive" information which might eventually reach the public's opinion. Let me explain. While all ufological forums limit themselves to heated debates with naysayers and skeptics, rehashing the Manichean and absurd question of whether UFOs are or are not alien spacecraft, the powers-that-be continue to conceal, behind those selfsame UFOs, its secret weapons, psychosocial experiments, ideological trends, new cult movements and a lengthy etcetera.

It is for this reason that those who construct History continue to conceal the truth, or I should say, the different "truths" that are hidden behind some of those UFOs, restricting

information or simply intoxicating it, since information is Power, and Power is never shared with the people.

Author George Andrews has long been an advocate of the "high strangeness" aspect of the UFO phenomenon, having delved into the subject at length in his books Extraterrestrials Among Us and E.T. Friends and Foes. In this article he takes a closer look at the resonances between the Chupacabras phenomenon and India's "Monkey Man".

Chupacabras Encounters Monkey-Man

by George Andrews

There are significant similarities as well as differences between the first wave of chupacabras reports that came out of Puerto Rico in 1995, the current wave of chupacabras reports that have been coming out of Chile since March 17, 2000, and the monkey-man phenomenon in India that terrorised inhabitants of Delhi and other locations during the month of May this year, 2001.

The main difference between the Puerto Rican and Chilean versions of the chupacabras is in the physical descriptions made by witnesses. In Puerto Rico it was described as looking like a cross between a kangaroo and a dinosaur, while in Chile it has been persistently described as an ape-like humanoid. What both creatures have in common is the bad habit of leaving behind the exsanguinated cadavers of domestic and wild animals wherever they go. The same paranormal abilities are attributed to both versions, such as the ability to leap enormous distances, the ability to fly, the ability to dematerialise, and the ability to enter and to leave securely locked rooms and buildings. As both versions are associated with UFO activity and have the distinctive large eyes of the Grays, it seems reasonable to speculate that the Grays may be trying out different types of genetically engineered cyborg animals to interact with the terrestrial environment in various ways. Chupacabras is clearly a creature designed to collect blood and glandular extract. What sort of mission monkey-man was designed for is not yet understood.

Descriptions of the Chilean version of the chupacabras are remarkably similar to those of the black and hairy monkey-man of India. Here are some chupacabras witness descriptions from Chile, which I quote by permission of Scott Corrales from his *Chupacabras Rising: the Paranormal Predator Returns*, published by the Institute of Hispanic Ufology, P.O. Box 228, Derrick City PA 16727. Here are some descriptions that were all made between April and July of 2000.

"It stood about 1.5 meters, like a big monkey, with long clawed arms and enormous fangs protruding from its mouth, as well as a pair of wings."

"An immense man, standing some 2 meters tall. Its shoulderblades were split, as if it had wings."

"A kind of ape or mandrill with human features, but with very large eyes."

"It had large yellow eyes, thick black-and-gray hair, and was standing approximately 1.5 meters tall."

A truck driver was parking his rig at a rest stop about 5

in the morning, when all three of them saw "a very ugly animal, very hairy and black, having a long oval head, fangs, and slanted goggling eyes. It had pointed ears and whiskers similar to those of a boar."

Bearing in mind that in both Puerto Rico and Chile, although the exsanguinated cadavers of domestic animals were to be counter by the thousands, direct attacks on human beings were so rare as to be almost non-existent, let us now turn our attention to the monkey-man of India.

I wish to thank Jean-Luc Rivera for providing me with relevant newspaper articles from India for the period between May 15 and June 19, 2001.

The newspaper articles from India do not mention any exsanguinated domestic animals. This may mean that there are in fact none of the attacks on domestic animals so characteristic of chupacabras activity throughout the Americas, or it may mean that covert censorship of the news media in India systematically suppresses stories on this subject. Until more thorough investigations can be made, this must remain an open question.

The newspaper articles agree that monkey-man attacks humans directly, but his motivation seems incomprehensible. When monkey-man has a human in his power, what does he do? He scratches the human more or less extensively with a metallic instrument, and then disappears. For a creature displaying so many paranormal abilities, this seems a remarkably clumsy way of collecting tissue samples, if that is the purpose. Or instead of taking tissue samples, are they inoculating the scratched individuals with bacterial, viral or other agents?

People were seriously hurt and killed by falling downstairs or jumping from high places in the panic that ensued after someone thought they saw monkey-man in the vicinity, but it would be inaccurate to construe such incidents as direct attacks on humans by monkey-man. Those scratched by the metallic instrument

recovered from their superficial wounds, but typically found it difficult to describe their assailants. They frequently stated that they could not see the creature, or were attacked by a shadow. Here are two typical witness statements, taken from the New Delhi Pioneer of May 17, 2001:

A 40-year-old resident of Gali, Raj Rani, suffered some scratches on the hand, neck, nose and head. Rani said while she was asleep on the terrace, she felt someone scratching her neck. She turned to see who was there. "I could not see anything except a figure that had red and blue lights on his body. I tried

to resist, but I was thrown down the stairs and received a head injury," she said.

60-year-old Tara Kumar from Ashok Nagar has a fragmentary recall of his attacker. Pointing to the telltale scratches on his posterior, he said, "It was a little after midnight. I was sleeping on the rooftop. Suddenly I find someone jabbing my neck. I turn around and see this monkey. I could only see him from

the waist upwards. His face looked like that of a bandar monkey, and the rest of it (till his waist) was covered in black. I was petrified with fear. But before I could yell, he took a big jump, something like 25 feet high, and bounded away

God knows where."

Other witnesses stated, "It was a strange kind of black shadow, a strange kind of animal no one has seen before" and "He touches a lock and it breaks, but he is afraid of the light." When a boy who was attacked dug his elbow into monkey-man, it felt as if he was hitting something metallic that had been covered by a cloth.

Some remarks that were made by policemen were highly perceptive: "It is not possible for the same creature to attack at two distant places in close succession."

"We have been told the creature is five and a half feet tall, is black and rather hairy. In fact, since he struck 13 times in 3 hours, we suspect there may be more than one of them." "Can you ever believe a monkey in jacket and jeans, with glistening cat-like eyes and an ability to vanish into thin air?" Monkey-man is said to leap from terrace to terrace, never touching the ground. His eyes glow. One man said that when he tried to grab the monkey, it turned into a cat and ran away.

Details such as the glowing eyes, the ability to disappear, and the ability to make gigantic leaps are shared by both chupacabras and monkey-man. And there is a historical precedent for the phenomenon in the case of Springheel Jack, who terrorised London in 1837. Springheel Jack had metallic gloves, with which he scratched his victims, had glowing eyes, was dressed in black, and was given his name because of his ability to make enormous leaps.

One of the puzzling factors in the monkey-man equation is the fact that the attacks were almost without exception on the poverty-stricken, and were confined to slum areas. From the alien point of view, selecting victims exclusively among paupers would almost guarantee minimal medical treatment of the superficial wounds, and minimal medical follow-up. By confining the attacks to the impoverished, the wealthy and the scientific elite who control the society can be led to believe it is all superstition and delusion, the ravings of the ignorant, since almost no one in the upper social classes was being attacked.

An article in India Express of New Delhi on May 19 stated that "Doctors at Swami Dayanand Hospital have devised a new way of tackling the inflow of 'victims' of monkey-man attacks: they are asked to shell out 1,800 rupees for six doses of anti-rabies vaccine. "On hearing this, they run," says a doctor."

An article in the Hindustan Times of May 17 describes a team of policemen laughing at a scratch victim who retreated from a hospital "after doctors offered him an anti-rabies shot." What they apparently found so amusing was that the scratch victim could not afford to pay for the anti-rabies vaccine, though this article does not mention the price.

About the same time that hospitals cut down on the influx of scratch victims by charging these inhabitants of slum areas fees they could not afford, the police also changed their tactics. They had been swamped with more calls than they could investigate, many of which were bogus, creating an impossible situation. However, they now began to arrest those calling them for help, unless they could prove their stories. As hardly anyone could provide the type of proof that they required, quite understandably the flood of phone calls dwindled to next to nothing. Who is going to phone the police for help, if their

response is going to be to arrest you, and treat you like a criminal on charges of "rumor-mongering", apparently a prosecutable offense in India?

These measures undoubtedly reduced hospital admissions and phone calls to police, providing a cosmetic veneer of social normality, while driving the real problem even further out of control. The more severe the repressed problem, the deeper the long-term damage done. If both medical and legal authorities lose their credibility simultaneously, what is there left in a society for a well-meaning citizen to cling to?

One of the rare upper class victims was a doctor's wife, who was attacked in her home. She said, "He was dressed in white. He seemed to be covered in bandages, like a mummy. Only the large, frightening eyes were visible."

Anyone who is at all acquainted with the abduction phenomenon in the United States would recognise this as a classic description of a Gray.

In the newspaper articles of May 15 the possibility that monkey-man might be an extra-terrestrial cyborg or robot was included along with the other possibilities.

However, after May 15 the possibility that monkey-man might be an extra-terrestrial is not mentioned even once in any of the newspaper articles I have seen. Did orders come down from higher up that such an explanation would be unacceptable? The special police commission to investigate the phenomenon attributed the whole problem to "mass hysteria", which was about as believable as the U.S. Air Force attributing UFO phenomena to "swamp gas" or "weather balloons".

The husband of a victim said that his wife did see the creature, which was not a hallucination, and the authorities are blaming it on the victims and the media to hide their own incompetence. He requested anonymity as the police had pressured him to change his testimony so that the paranormal aspects of the attack are omitted and the attack can be treated as an ordinary

crime. People who claimed to have been attacked within their securely locked homes risked prosecution if they tried to tell police. Apparently no one in India was aware of the recent chupacabras attacks in Chile, which repeatedly demonstrated the creature's ability to enter and to leave securely locked rooms and buildings.

Another victim said, "I saw the creature with my own eyes. I did not even complain to the police about the attack, as I knew they would not believe me and would brand me insane. This report has confirmed my belief. The police could not catch the creature, and have got the so-called experts to put the blame on people like us and the press."

What some doctors found perplexing was that in several cases there were multiple witnesses to an attack, and the eyewitness accounts supported each other. If what they had been witnessing was a hallucination, this would not be the case.

A doctor pointed out that the nails of all animals have some degree of curvature, and so do scratches caused by them, while the scratches on the victims are straight. In some cases, there was only one scratch. In others, they were all over the body, but of a superficial nature. The scratches appeared to the doctors to have been caused by some sort of metallic instrument.

The only mention of similar events having occurred in Chile

was in the Hindustan Times of May 16, which said the events in Chile had occurred in the 1940s. Not one word was said about the abundance of such phenomena in Chile since March 17, 2000, and continuing into the present. Didn't the journalists know about the events in 2000 and 2001, or was this information censored?

Besides the victims that were only scratched, and people in a panic who jumped or fell from high places upon hearing a cry of alarm, monkey-man is directly responsible for at least two human deaths. The wounds inflicted on these two men not only resemble each other, but also resemble wounds inflicted on animals by chupacabras in the Americas. THE STORY IS CARRIED IN THE New Delhi Pioneer of May 18. The two victims, who were both among the impoverished, died six hours apart in locations that were not far from each other.

19-year-old Satyavir, who lived in a roadside shelter, was declared dead on arrival at Narender Mohan Hospital, where Dr. Deepak stated: "There were three punctures in the victim's skull, which were 2-to-3 inches deep and 6 inches long. When they brought him in here at 8:30 AM, about an hour after the attack, there was no bleeding. There were two fractures on the right hand, the upper and lower joints. There were also line scratches on the back and abdomen. On the right hip there was a deep wound."

The second victim, Naranjian, had a job pushing a broom at the local railway station. He was attacked while sleeping in his courtyard, and had two puncture wounds in his head, 2 inches deep and 5 inches long.

Making holes in the head or neck of the animals it attacks is a type of wound typically inflicted by chupacabras in the Americas. The thrust of the perforation is always toward the brain or heart.

Within the next few days after these killings, monkey-man attacked three other individuals in the region, but only inflicted the usual superficial scratches. Such behavior is quite puzzling, but it is clear that neither chupacabras or monkey-man can be characterised as benevolent.

If we are to situate the monkey-man epidemic in India within its international context, it is obvious that the events in Delhi began almost immediately after Dr. Steven Greer's Disclosure Project at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on May 9-12, which tried to put an end to the UFO cover-up by presenting twenty retired military officers and government officials, who gave public testimony concerning UFO incidents they had been personally involved in during the course of their careers. It was a gallant attempt, but for the most part the news media trivialised, trashed, or simply ignored this major landmark event. It was almost immediately afterwards that the monkey-man manifestations began to occur in India.

Dr. Steven Greer sincerely believes extra-terrestrial activity on Earth to be for the most part beneficial. Other researchers, including myself, consider his point of view excessively optimistic, though we support what he is trying to do with his Disclosure Project.

Is the phenomenon itself reacting to the persistent suppression of information by the established authorities in our society? The message the phenomenon is sending us may be that

the more we repress positively-oriented extra-terrestrial initiatives, such as those proposed by Dr. Greer, the more strongly the negatively-oriented extra-terrestrials (such as chupacabras and monkey-man) will manifest among us.

Bruno Cardeñosa's name will ring a bell with readers who recall the review of his excellent Los Archivos Secretos del Ejercito del Aire a few issues ago. A prolific author and talented radio personality, Cardeñosa gives us an interview with a pioneer in the field whose insights will be of interest to U.S. readers.

Carlos Murciano: "Something Floats Over Our World"

by Bruno Cardeñosa

In 1968, Carlos Murciano was assigned the UFO beat. Just like that, thanks to the good offices of the legendary Torcuato Luca de Tena, director of Spain's ABC newspaper. He went all over the world in search of evidence proving the existence of unidentified flying objects. Today, with the benefit of age and the time elapsed since his original assignment, the journalist reflects upon that singular quest and the ills afflicting 21st century ufology.

"This one of the key points," says Murciano. "The UFO phenomenon was deprived of its humanity. There was once upon a time a series of young people, researchers who projected the problem into statistics. They could have cared less about the character who had seen the strange object--only the percentages, the cold hard data, and the numbers, and they started publishing books with these statistics, which interested no one, since the enigma's human aspect had been eliminated."

Carlos Murciano, a native of Arcos de la Frontera near Cádiz, represents a historic moment in Spanish ufology. This poet and novelist, a award winner, and with ninety books under his belt, saw his life change before him in early September 1968. He was 37 years old at the time, with six children and an upper management position at a Madrid-based multinational. His literary prowess was becoming well-known and he was collecting his first prizes when Spanish society began to face an enigma which had hitherto concerned only a few people: unidentified flying objects.

That same year, according to the statistics he so disapproves of, UFOs were seen more than 400 times over the Iberian Peninsula, and society was beginning to wonder just what were those artifacts. Even he pondered over the subject in an article published in ABC on September 12, 1968. Seven days earlier, one of those strange objects had flown over Madrid, and he was unable to resist the temptation to write a piece that would modify the course of his entire life:

"Something floats over the World, over this old world of ours, weary of rolling through infinite space. Something (but what?)

arrives (but from where?) to roam its skies (but how?) stopping sometimes (but why?) and later escaping (to where?). Something (or someone?) that we ignore and can only intuit is observing, stalking and monitoring the creatures of the Earth who, curious and confused, try to answer that great question which is made up of so many other lesser ones. It is hard, truly, to give credit to what we cannot verify without a doubt, but it is no easier to deny what thousands of people of all walks of life and in the most unequal parts of our planet are seeing every day; that which many men of science, who are cautious when it comes to drawing conclusions, are seriously studying and considering."

Hours after writing these lines, Torcuato Luca de Tena, ABC's legendary editor, phoned him with a one-of-a-kind offer: to go around the world in search of UFOs. Carlos Murciano hesitated. I'm not a journalist, he told him. If I wanted a journalist, Luca de Tena replied, I could snap my fingers and have hundreds of them. But this mission called for a man of polished prose who was able to endow the mystery with a human dimension. And who could be better than a poet?

And so it was that Carlos Murciano temporarily set aside his business suit and donned his newspaperman garb, touring Spain and the world at large for almost a year, talking to and interviewing dozens of wise men who analyzed the enigma as well as witnesses of all different social and economic backgrounds who had seen the strange objects. The UFO correspondent does not recall having been home two days in a row after setting out on his journey.

He traveled extensively in Spain and overseas: Chile, Argentina, the United States, the United Kingdom and Italy. His assignment was to write a daily chronicle for the newspaper, and the work grew to such proportions that he would write in hotels and aboard airplanes, but fortunately his reports created a great deal of interest: the man on the street wanted to know what it was all about and his articles sated the desire. In 1969, under the title "Something Floats Over the World", the Prensa Española publishing house released choice selections of his writings, which despite having sold out completely, was never reprinted. It remains today a holy grail item for anyone wishing to have a perspective of the UFO enigma in its moment of greatest splendor. His book remains one of the true classics in the small, great history of this enigma.

After those years there came an initial drought, followed by a new and prolonged wave of sightings between 1974 and 1980, and subsequently a void in which we are still floating, from a certain point of view. Public interest in the subject that Carlos Murciano experienced so closely was lost. There was a period in which there appeared to be a change in fortune, but finally, everything would revert to the irritating, cloying darkness.

When I sat facing Carlos Murciano in his Madrid residence, surrounded by the 20,000 books which form part of his extensive library, what interested me the most about this man--a journalist, who lived through those historic years like no

other--was to learn what was the perspective he had gleaned over the years, and the judgement offered by a well-furnished intellect: his opinion on the subject in the light of the apparent lack of interest evinced by Spanish society, and the scarce regard felt toward those who research and study the subject. In the late 1960's, Murciano witnessed the birth of the split between UFO researchers, and that is the crux of the question, in his opinion.

"The problem was the purists who paid more importance to numbers than to witnesses. This contributed to the UFO phenomenon's deflation. The man who reads the papers, watches TV, or listens to the radio, isn't interested in that, and much like a balloon, the subject of UFOs deflated. Added to this was the reduction in sightings," observed Murciano.

"And I suppose that the lack of answers didn't help."

"Because there were no substantial development. No matter how well-informed you become and how much you study, the years go by and everything stays the same."

"After all those years of frantic searching, are you still involved with UFOs?"

"Yes. Among the people I interviewed were researchers like Manuel Osuna and Antonio Ribera, who were enchanting, and with whom I stayed in touch. But there was that other group..."

Carlos Murciano, as a noted poet and winner of the Premio Nacional de Poesía in 1972, clashed head-on with the excessively cold trend of the scientists. Because, as he was able to attest after interviewing dozens of witnesses, the UFO enigma attacked a human being's emotional aspect directly. This was one of the things he learned in his journeys. "I had a contract signed with Planeta for a new book, but I got tired. The world of Literature, which was my world, was a world of constant struggle, filled with squabbles, contempt, and rejection, and it was necessary to always be at the forefront of the battle. I didn't want to open a second front. There was no need whatsoever for me to face the sector which thought that it had discovered it all, and even though Planeta insisted, I refused. I took a step backward and told myself: you guys can have it. Because UFOs," concludes Murciano, referring to ufology's so-called critical or scientific sector, known today as skeptical ufology, "cannot be studied in the abstract."

"Therefore, your reaction was a product of the face-off which came about between both sectors of ufology."

"It's just that I couldn't echo that perspective," Carlos pauses and then states: "No echo and no future. And time proved me right."

One of the cases which best portrayed the showdown between ufology's two factions was the one experienced by IBERIA pilot Jaime Ordovs on February 25, 1969, when flying over the Mediterranean coast, he witnessed a giant triangular artifact

engaged in impossible maneuvers.

Carlos Murciano recalls, as though the interview had taken place yesterday, the testimony of the pilot and its crew. "Whey saw did not appear to correspond to anything known," he points out. But by then, that other faction of ufology which he mentions was classifying Venus as a possible cause for the sighting. "Venus, Venus, it always pops up as a possible explanation," he laments.

As years went by, he was able to ascertain that these ufologists upheld the explanation, which was also set forth in the Spanish Air Force's declassified reports, of which he learned thanks to the follow-up on the subject conducted by J.J. Benítez, the man who from his position in journalism collected the testimony of Murciano's eyewitness.

Much has changed since the days when Carlos Murciano carried out his research. A fundamental factor is the that interest in the UFO phenomenon has become factionalized due to errors of one party or the other. Nor does it give rise to social debate on the street, as it did then. Has this been a cause for the number of sightings to decline? In part, yes. Is there a guilty party? Murciano summarized it in a single sentence: This enigma cannot be studied in the abstract. But as this veteran man of letters knows, the Unidentified exist and allow us to see them every so often, while those of us who research and popularize the subject decades later, are obligated to lay down the grounds which will aid scientists in emerging from the fatigue generated by the enigma, and who knows, perhaps spur the quest to find an answer to the mystery.

"Do you think that the option of humanizing the enigma, resurrecting it, still exists?"

"It would be necessary to start from a pool of new sightings. It is necessary to have a new wave that acts as the trigger. There's no doubt that this phenomenon is cyclical, and it has always been so. But this latest silence is highly significant and has already lasted many years."

"But it seems impossible nowadays that the daily press would renew its permanent treatment of the subject, as it was done then. There is a great deal of rejection."

"There was always rejection, but what has indeed changed is the mindset. Before, scientists and intellectuals were always at loggerheads; now it's not so much. I don't think that a newspaper like *El País* or *El Mundo* would be criticized for retaking an interest in the subject. If the subject is approached from a modern perspective and seriously, it would be interesting!"

"What's your hypothesis about the UFO phenomenon?"

"That UFOs exist as such and that other worlds are inhabitable," replies Carlos Murciano. "There is enough evidence for the former, but what are they. The latter I can't prove, but I'm

convinced that there is life on other worlds. Intelligent life? I don't know. Or let me put it this way--something floats over the world and it comes from elsewhere, why not? I interviewed," he continues, "diplomats, clergymen, scientists, military, pilots, technicians, academics, people of all types and backgrounds."

"And out of all of them, whose account impressed you the most?"

"So much time's gone by," Carlos reflects, sighing and recalling an episode which took place in Sanlucar de Barrameda (Seville) in 1969. "A nine year-old girl had gone out of her house into the back yard, where there was an olive tree, and saw an object hovering over it. She went back into her house to tell her grandmother, who also saw it. The girl never went out of her house and into the back yard again at night, and she wasn't a liar. I don't know what she saw, but something strange stood in front of her."

<p style="text-align: center;">MEXICO WATCH: Keeping an Eye on our Southern Neighbor's Skies</p>
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Editor's Note: The opinions voiced by Dr. Lara in his editorial are not necessarily those of INEXPLICATA or the Institute of Hispanic Ufology. Parties mentioned in this article may request the right to reply.

Mexican Ufology in the Year 2001, or, You Can't Tell the Players Without a Scorecard

*by Dr. Rafael A. Lara,
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Paranormales (CEFP)*

I have always said that I do not belong the ranks of those who individuals who pompously call themselves "ufologists". In spite of having conducted countless field surveys, taken an infinite number of photos and videos, interviewed hundreds of eyewitnesses, publish articles and appear on radio and T.V. programs, I have never thought of myself as such. However, I have a solid foundation and experiences upon which to base my opinions on the subject.

Several years ago, I remarked that the study of UFOs in Mexico was largely based on crankery, pseudo-research, yellow journalism and above all, money. This has not changed to date. It was in 1991, following the "Eclipse UFO", that the dollar ufologists said "the time of contact is fast approaching". Since then an effort has been made to convince people that aliens are there, standing just around the corner. However, it must also be noted that not all is gloom and doom: there are groups of researchers who perform serious and responsible research within the UFO field while remaining far from all publicity, spotlights and considerable amounts of money.

As far as publications are concerned, the Mexican UFO market is represented by such magazines as *Insólito*, a sensationalist tabloid; *Grandes Enigmas*, a magazine which dwells on threadbare subjects like the Bermuda Triangle, the Curse of the Pharaohs,

the Mystery of the Pyramids, etc.; *Contacto OVNI*, edited by Mario Torres, is a publication of average quality that mixes all types of UFO research with prophecies, millennialism, religious mysteries, astroarchaeology, etc. It reached its 100th issue only a few months ago, prompting a well-known researcher to remind UFO buffs that "alien contact is at hand, and Mexico will very likely be the location for such contact." All of these magazines are published by Editorial Mina.

Carlos Díaz, one of Mexico's best known contactees thanks to the support he received from the "dollar ufologists" at a certain point in his trajectory, has fallen to second or third place given precisely by a withdrawal of support from these parties, allegedly, over huge sums of money. Mr. Díaz and his Centro de Estudios para la Realidad del Fenómeno OVNI, located in Tepoztlán, Morelos, have declined significantly. The influx of foreign tourists, mainly from the U.S., in search of "undeniable evidence" has decreased ostensibly, as have sales of his photographs, esoteric products and records, all of this in spite of the fact that John Mack devoted almost an entire chapter to him in his book "Passport to the Cosmos".

Curiously, Mr. Díaz appears to have been replaced by an alleged contactee named "Sarita", who is sponsored by journalist and author Luis Ramírez Reyes. Occupying a house located between the towns of Amatlán and Tepoztlán, Sarita has witnessed hundreds of UFO's, according to Mr. Ramírez, and has established contact with an alleged extraterrestrial entity named "Alaniso" who imparts messages of an ecological nature. It would seem that Tepoztlán and its environs are still waiting for the arrival of the Kind Space Brothers.

Pascal Lopresti is a new player in the Mexican UFO community. A businessman from Mexico City and [Italian contactee Giorgio] Bongiovanni's agent in Mexico, he holds the copyrights to all of the contactees works, and has decided to close down the Mexican Ark of Salvation at the behest of the stigmatic contactee, since in spite of the repeated "End-of-the-World" prophecies, the end is never at hand. Pascal holds UFO conventions in which contactees mingle with mystics, healers and alleged witnesses to alien spaceship crashes and recoveries. He collaborates with *Contacto OVNI* magazine.

Luis Ramírez Reyes tendencies toward conspiracy theory remain unchanged (see SAMIZDAT Special Report: Mexico 1996). Mr. Ramírez emulates John Lear and William Cooper, but with a Mexican touch. His accounts are filled with humanoid insects, women raped by aliens, reptilian hybrids, ubiquitous UFOs, etc. and form the backbone of his work.

Rubén Manrique is a disciple of the recently deceased Luis Andrés Jaspersen [...]. His articles often appear in *Contacto OVNI* magazine and represent an amalgam of contacteeism, millennialism and re-examinations of old cases. A close friend of

Jaime Maussán and Mario Torres, he currently promotes alleged photographs of aliens on the Moon.

This is a very brief and personal analysis of a situation that has not changed for many years. I do not believe, as some have said, that "the evidence has been captured on video", as though this were the only weapon in the ufologist's arsenal when it comes to performing a solvent, serious and above all, reliable study.

<p style="text-align: center;">EX LIBRIS: A Random Sampling of Hispanic Ufology in Print</p>
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Los OVNIS en Canarias by *José Gregorio González Gutierrez*
Tenerife: Centro de la Cultura Popular Canaria, 1995
230 pages w/illustrations. Price not available

Regional UFO and paranormal studies are perhaps among the most interesting books in the field, because as opposed to books devoted to a single subject (say, Roswell...) the author often casts his or her nets farther afield in an effort to provide background information for the paranormal, cryptozoological or saucerian thrust of the book. Good examples of these are Mike Marinacci's *Mysterious California* or Bob Teets's *West Virginia UFOs*.

Los OVNIS en Canarias is precisely this type of book: author González takes us on a tour of this mysterious and alluring archipelago off the African coast, which is best known as a year-round tourist destination. González takes a close look at the UFO-related phenomena which have made his islands a hotspot of weird activity for over 30 years: the mysterious objects which have emerged from the sea (and whose photographs have been widely printed in magazines all over the world); the CE3K event popularly known as the "Giants of Galdar", in which elements of the Spanish army opened fire on towering non-human entities; the mysterious cattle mutilations of 1979 and 1983, which rivalled their U.S. counterparts in complexity and eeriness; sightings of diminutive Bigfoot-like creatures (Smallfoots?) in remote corners of the islands, and last, but not least, cases involving fairy-like entities in remote mountain valleys and canyons which are almost impossible to enter.

Whether you believe in the paranormal or not, González's work is sufficiently documented and well written to have merited publication by a state-run publisher, the Center for Popular Culture of the Canary Islands. This regional study deserves a space on the bookshelves of anyone interested in learning more about those corners of the world which have experienced brushes with the unexplained since before the "official" start date of 1947.